

# MEKONG INSTITUTE

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2018



MEKONG  
INSTITUTE





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# Message

## DR. WATCHARAS LEELAWATH

MI Executive Director

“2018 was a year of many new initiatives for Mekong Institute.”



As we commit to expanding the successes of our initiatives and to building stronger partnerships across the region, MI launched in 2018 five new initiatives under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund. These projects all support the LMC's broad objective of creating shared prosperity and socio-economic development by building capacities that will advance trade, strengthen connectivity and foster enhanced cooperation among countries in the region.

We also launched in this year the second phase of MI's Food Safety Project with one of our long-standing partners, the New Zealand Aid Programme. Now re-branded PROSAFE (Promoting Safe Food for Everyone), this phase leverages on the success of the first phase and looks forward to creating an integrated mechanism for further strengthening food safety consciousness among the people of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS).

These new starts promise to carve a wider path to a more dynamic development of the GMS - a development that is responsive, sustainable and inclusive.

2018 was also a year of reinforcing our commitment to our thematic thrusts. In this year, we undertook a midterm review of the implementation of the MI 2016-2020 Strategic Plan. The review confirmed that we are on the right track in terms of our thematic areas and focus. While agriculture will continue to be central in the GMS, the ever increasing interdependencies between agriculture, trade and technology cannot be discounted. There is greater pressure on us to be more smart and innovative in our products and processes, and this means that MI's thematic areas remain relevant more than ever.

Indeed, MI is in a prime position to catalyze the critical collaborations and cooperation toward the development directions of the GMS. As a regional organization, we are called upon to maximize the numerous cooperation mechanisms and frameworks that underpin and support the broad goal of regional progress. This is a call we pledge to heed as we forge new steps forward in 2019 and the years to come.

## Message

### MS. PATTARAT HONGTONG

MI Council Chairperson

“Mekong Institute’s two major milestones for 2018 were what could be considered two-pronged: one was directed at improving the Institute’s organizational direction and the other served to place MI in a better position as a regional actor in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.”

The first milestone was MI’s mid-term review of the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2016-2020, which reaffirmed that MI and its work along its thematic areas remain relevant and meaningful to the development agenda and aspirations of the GMS. This mid-term review also delivered important insights and recommendations to improve organizational processes and mechanisms which will ultimately ensure MI’s strong and continued growth as a human resource capacity building organization.

The second milestone was the new projects that MI initiated in 2018 particularly those under the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Special Fund. The MLC is one of the newest but most dynamic cooperation mechanisms in the region with



remarkable achievements since its formation in 2016. I am confident that the five new projects launched by MI in 2018 under the MLC Special Fund will deliver and contribute significantly to the accomplishments of the cooperation framework.

By taking the lead in these initiatives as implementing agency, it has placed the Institute in an excellent position to take an even more active role in fostering region-wide cooperation and integration. I hope that by building on the opportunities offered by the MLC Special Fund, MI can emerge to be a central actor in harmonizing the various cooperation frameworks of our region and in establishing synergy in our endeavors. This includes the synergy between various MI initiatives with those of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which has important regional priorities taken up by Thailand as Chair of ASEAN in 2019.

# Message

## DR. NARONGCHAI AKRASANEE

MI Steering Committee Chairman

“The sharpened emphasis on an innovation-driven growth strategy in the GMS made 2018 a crucial year for the region and for regional development organizations such as Mekong Institute.”



It was a year for maneuvering changes, a time to see how GMS countries manage the changes that will shape the wellbeing of their people. For organizations like MI that has the mission of enabling collective and synergistic efforts of critical multiple actors, 2018 meant fostering larger partnerships and scaling up initiatives that will contribute to the ripples of change in the region and the GMS countries in particular.

A notable feat has been the addition of new projects under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund. The LMC mechanism is shaping out to be an influential and strong framework driving fast-paced growth and enhancing cooperation among the countries in this region. Mekong Institute's new initiatives under the LMC will further cement its presence in the region and amplify its role as a human resource capacity building organization.

As focus also shifts on optimizing technology, the challenge for the region is adopting and applying innovations that can enhance performance and production, and more importantly, democratizing the know-how on these innovations so a larger segment of the GMS population, especially smallholder sectors, can have access to it. This is a development area where MI can take on an even more active role in the coming years.

MI can expand the ground it has covered in 2018 by continuing to seek and work with a wide array of state- and non-state actors in promoting knowledge exchange and building capacities of human resources in the adoption of technology and innovative processes that will catapult GMS development to new heights.

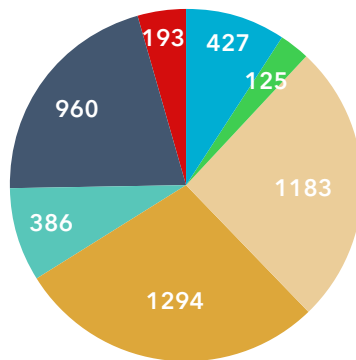
# 2018 In Numbers



**203** Capacity building events organized

Participation by Country

**4,568**  
total participants



- Cambodia
- Myanmar
- LAO PDR
- Vietnam
- Thailand
- Other countries
- P.R. China

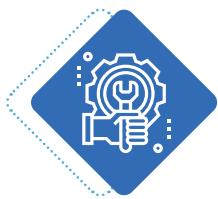
**25%** Participants from **public sector**



**75%** Participants from **private sector**



**213**  
Technical assistance provided



**32**  
Grants offered



**14**  
New training curriculum developed



**6**  
Research conducted



**6**  
Policies, procedures and regulations changed



Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals



# 2018 at a Glance



Study on Cross-Border Trade Facilitation of Agricultural Products and Inputs in EWEC

**JANUARY**



MI and Chiba University Formalize Cooperation with MoU Signing

*February 11*

**FEBRUARY**



International symposium titled From Mekong Commons to Mekong Community jointly organized by Chiba University and MI

**JULY**

Regional Training Program on Food Safety Management Tools for Food Manufacturing  
*July 2 - 6*



**AUGUST**

Mekong Forum 2018  
*August 3*

MI receives award for its meritorious contribution in promoting food safety and food security in Asia from the Government of Cambodia  
*August 10*

Business to Government Dialogue on Cross-Border Trade Facilitation in the East West Economic Corridor  
*August 23*



**SEPTEMBER**

Regional Training Program on Raising Public Awareness on Safe Food Consumption  
*September 10 - 14*

Regional Training Program on Green Freight and Logistics Management  
*September 17 - 21*







MoU Signing with Thailand Ministry of Commerce on Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund projects on trade facilitation  
*April 18*

**APRIL**



Regional Training Program on Sustainable Transport and Logistics Planning and Management (Phase II)  
*April 30 - May 11*

**MAY**



Regional Training on Advanced Communication Skill Capacity Building for Regional Cooperation and Integration in Lancang-Mekong Region  
*June 25 - July 6*

**JUNE**

**OCTOBER**

MoU Signing with Thailand Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment on water resource management and climate change adaptation project  
*October 11*

**NOVEMBER**

Training Program on Innovative Entrepreneurship: From Ideas to Starting a Business  
*October 29 - November 9*

**DECEMBER**

MI Joins 4<sup>th</sup> Silk Road Forum in Paris, France  
*December 7 - 8*



# In Pursuit of a More Inclusive GMS:

## MI's Long and Short term Projects in 2018

### Agriculture



- MI Food Safety Project Phase II - PROSAFE (New Zealand Aid Programme)
- Postharvest Management System in Fresh Horticultural Produce (Government of P.R. China)

### Transport Development



- Green Freight and Logistics Development in Mekong Countries (Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund)
- Sustainable Freight Transport and Logistics in the Mekong Region (Switch Asia Fund-European Union)
- Development of the Greater Mekong Subregion Transport Information Connectivity System (GTICS) along the Economic Corridors (Government of P.R. China)
- Monitoring of Early Harvest Implementation of the GMS Cross-Border Transport Agreement (Asian Development Bank)

### Trade Facilitation



- Joint Development of Cross-Border Economic Zones (Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund)
- Upgrading Border Facilitation for Trade and Logistics Development (Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund)
- Lancang-Mekong Business Forums (Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund)
- Action Research on Rural E-commerce Development in Lancang-Mekong (Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund)
- Export Capacity Support for Small Exporters from Asia-Pacific Least Developed Countries in Specialty Agro-Food Value Chains (Trade Facilitation Office-Canada and International Development Research Centre)
- Study on the Competitiveness of Lao Enterprises in ASEAN (GIZ)

### Agricultural Development and Trade Facilitation



- Regional and Local Economic Development - East West Economic Corridor Project (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation)

### Labor Mobility



- Strategic Management to Labor Migration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region: Addressing the Challenges through Good Practices (Thailand International Cooperation Agency)

### Environmental Sustainability



- Transboundary Cooperation Mechanism on Adaptation to Climate Change and Hydropower Development Projects (Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund)

### Energy



- Capacity Building on GMS Power Grid Interconnection (Government of P.R. China and China Southern Power Grid Co., Ltd./ Yunnan Power Grid Co., Ltd.,)

### Regional Cooperation and Development



- Mekong Institute Young Scholars Program Batch I (P.R. China)
- Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund Management



# Instilling Stronger Food Safety Consciousness



2018 was a year for scaling up the MI Food Safety Project (MI-FSP) supported by the New Zealand Aid Programme.

Building on the success of the project's first phase in promoting food safety culture across the horticultural value chain, the second phase, now re-branded as **PROSAFE: Promoting Safe Food for Everyone**, was launched in June 2018.

This new five-year phase of the MI-FSP is now geared toward further strengthening technical support and expanding regional and local capacity building initiatives in food safety in order to put in place an integrated mechanism that will lead to significant changes in food safety perception and practices in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV).

In 2018, the PROSAFE Project delivered an array of back-to-back activities in these countries as it leveraged on the momentum and highs of the project's first phase.

## PROSAFE TRAINING TOPICS

Training of Trainer on Food Safety Promotion

Food Safety Management Tools

Pest and Agrichemical Management

Food Safety Risk Analysis

Raising Public Awareness on Food Safety

Postharvest Safe Food Handling

Food Hygiene and Sanitation

Communicating Food Safety

Inception workshops were carried out in the four countries to introduce the project’s objectives to relevant stakeholders and to engage them in discussions of their national needs, priority areas and action plans for promoting food safety consciousness.

Likewise, capitalizing on the networks formed during the project’s first phase, national knowledge sharing forums on food safety were also carried out to bring together training participants and allow them to share their experiences and open an avenue for future collaborations.



*“As a manager dealing with fresh vegetables and fruits, I learned a lot from the training and the knowledge sharing among participants on Good Manufacturing Practices, food safety standards and the concept of audit forms.*

*“Now, we have put posters in our farm with information about parasites and bacteria. There are also posters on proper handwashing and banning pets in the handling area. We have also put materials containing information on handling fresh vegetables and packing them for transport to the market.*

*“After joining the training at MI, I have also updated our business processes and forms, including the procedures for crate clearing and pest control.*

*“Now I know the importance of introducing to our customers what our company is doing to make sure that our products are safe. There is now a suggestion box where they can give their feedback about our products and services.”*

**Mr. Neang Thai**

Quality Assurance Manager, Eco-Agri Co., Ltd., Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
 Attended training program on Food Safety Management Tools for Food Manufacturing, July 26, 2018

# Expanding GMS Energy Cooperation



The six-year collaboration between Mekong Institute, China Southern Power Grid Co., Ltd., (CSG) and Yunnan Power Grid Co., Ltd., (YNPG) in the project, **Capacity Building on Greater Mekong Sub-region Power Grid Interconnection** continued in 2018 to further promote technical capacity in energy technology in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

A workshop and one training program were carried out in 2018 wherein over 50 technicians and staff of GMS power authorities came together to exchange knowledge on the application of new technologies for power grid development.

This collaborative project has been instrumental in fostering the cooperation between YNPG and the Metropolitan Electricity Authority (MEA) of Thailand since 2017. This cooperation has remained strong as YNPG delivered another training on power system operation and management to MEA staff in November 2018.





*"The MI coordinators of my training have all been very helpful, and I would also like to thank China Southern Power Grid for teaching us many technologies. Many of these are all new for Cambodia and the information that have been the most relevant for us are those on safety and solar farms. In fact, Cambodia is in the process of installing a new solar farm that we hope to be operational by August 2019. This training has been truly helpful in building our technical knowledge on energy and power grids."*

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**Ms. Thong Sokleng**

Chief of Energy Sector of International  
Cooperation Office, Electricity Du Cambodia  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Attended training program on New  
Technologies Application for Power Grid  
Development, October 22-November 3, 2018

# Delivering Inclusive Growth in the East West Economic Corridor



Since 2013, the **Regional and Local Economic Development - East West Economic Corridor (RLED-EWEC) Project** has been working with rice (Lao PDR), maize (Myanmar) and coffee (Vietnam) farmers and enterprises to help increase their income and profit by enabling better access to regional and global value chains.

Supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the project - now on its phasing out phase - is working to expand good practices and achievements in the project sites and draw support to enhance trade flows along the economic corridor.



**150**  
capacity building  
programs conducted



**2,570**  
households  
reached



**80%**  
increased  
knowledge  
and skills



## Agricultural Value Chain Development

In 2018, the Project focused on rolling out the business models to more beneficiaries and growers of other farm crops.



- Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) in rice production (Khammouane and Savannakhet)
- Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in rice processing (Khammouane)
- Tripartite business model between rice producer groups-rice mills-rice seed producers(Khammouane)



- Business models on domestic input supply and output market in maize (Myawaddy)
- Low interest loan /microfinance model (Myawaddy)



- Business linkage and Quadripartite model in coffee, rubber and pepper (Quang Tri)



*"I have joined many of the farmers meetings, trainings and field practice consultations that the EWEC Project has organized in Khammouane.*

*"I learned about the proper dosage of fertilizers to be applied and some of the integrated pest management practices as part of GAP. But one of the most interesting lessons I learned was on farm recording as a farm management practice.*

*"When the recording requirement was first introduced under GAP standardization, I found it very difficult, but doing it has helped me remember important production data like costs, yields and sales.*

*"I have received very good results from applying this knowledge in both my GAP and non-GAP rice plots. As head of the GAP rice farmer group, I also share now my experience to my fellow farmers."*

**Mr. Hanh Chanthalangsy**

Head of Ban Dongtai GAP farmer group  
Thakhek District, Khammouane, Lao PDR



## Cross-Border Trade Facilitation

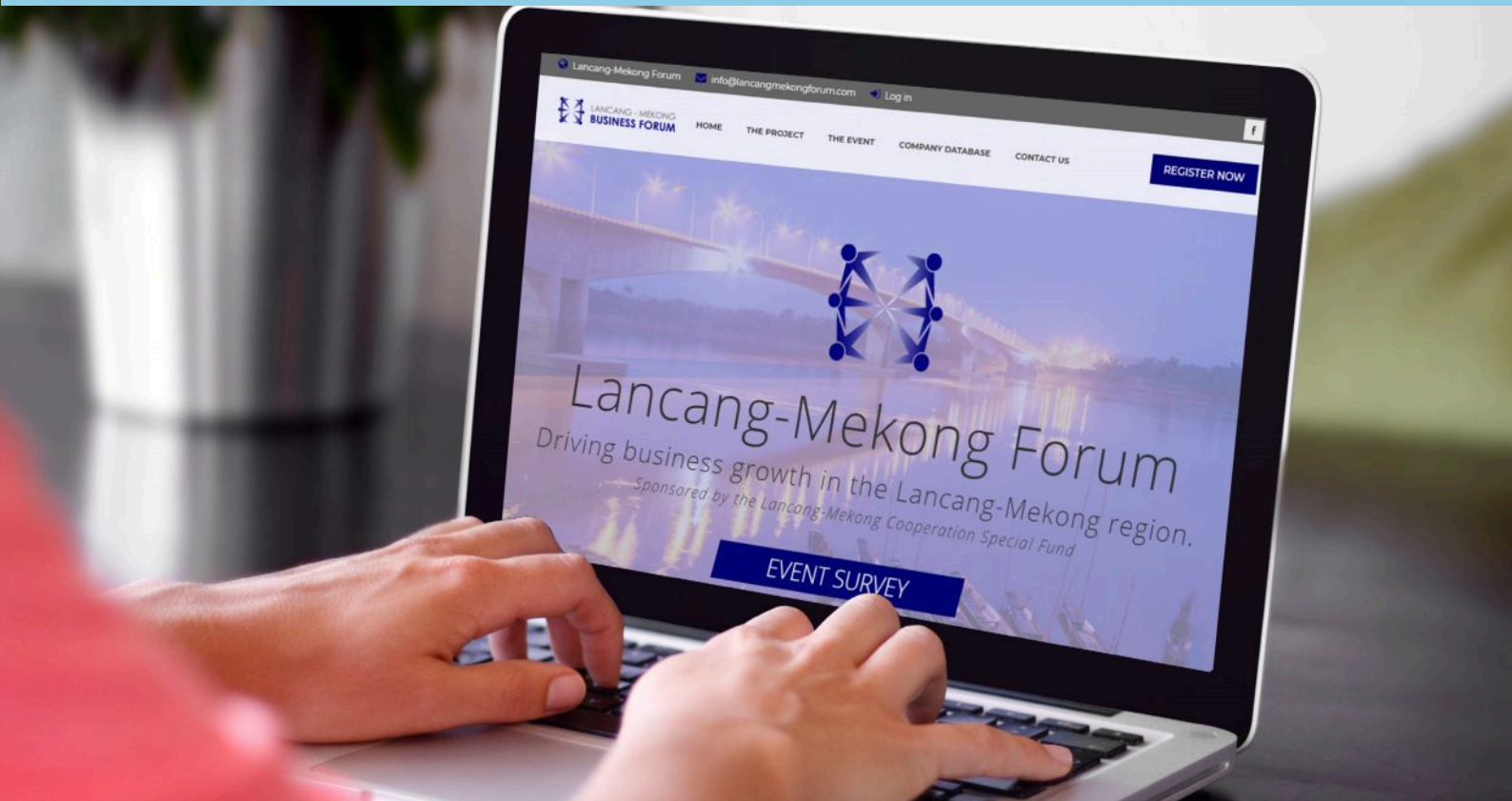
The Project also released in 2018 the results of an in-depth study on cross-border trade facilitation (CBTF) in the EWEC. Shared with key stakeholders, the study resulted into the creation of 10 cross-border trade-related proposals and the formation of CBTF working groups in the border provinces of Mukdahan, Thailand; Quang Tri, Vietnam; and Savannakhet, Lao PDR.

Pushing forward the foundational work for CBTF in the corridor, the Project also held a Business to Government (B2G) Dialogue in August 2018. A concrete output of said dialogue was the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding among the three provinces committing to the speedy facilitation of trade across the borders.

The Provincial Government of Savannakhet also agreed to remove overtime fees at the border gate and inspections at Ban Dong and Dong Hen stations in the following year to enable faster movement of vehicles.

To reinforce these efforts, a training on clearance procedure was also delivered in October 2018 in Quang Tri to over a hundred cross-border trading enterprises to orient them on the process of goods and vehicle clearance and immigration procedures. A similar approach has been planned for other border provinces like Khammouane (Lao PDR) and Nakhon Phanom (Thailand); and Quang Binh (Vietnam), Mae Sot (Thailand) and Myawaddy (Myanmar) in 2019.

# Boosting Entrepreneurship Development



The project on **Lancang-Mekong Business Forums** is one of the four new trade-related initiatives launched in 2018 under the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation (LMC) Special Fund. Building on the idea of business forums as strategic platforms for networking and business exchange, the project is geared toward supporting small and medium enterprises in expanding business linkages and connecting with other companies for sharing business practices and insights.

To kick off the series of business forums to be organized across the region, Mekong Institute held the first Lancang-Mekong Business Forum in November 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand. Focusing on the food processing sector, the forum showcased a seminar, business matching event, product exhibition and structured learning visit. More than 100 participants comprising of processed food exporters and representatives from business associations, research institutes and government agencies from the Lancang-Mekong countries joined the one-day event.

Another project supporting entrepreneurship development launched in the same year is the project on **Action Research on Rural E-Commerce Development in Lancang-Mekong Countries**. Also receiving funding from the LMC Special Fund, the three-year project intends to promote e-commerce as a tool for enterprises to broaden their trade opportunities and improve their access to global markets.

On its first year, the project carried out a modular training on rural e-commerce development in October 2018. Twenty-four public and private sector actors were oriented on the trends, good practices and models of e-commerce development.



*"Before attending the training at MI, I had only originally thought of selling my organic products offline and via Facebook. This training, however, gave me the idea to set up my business with an online platform, Zaychin.*

*"My business is not very big so I am really starting small and my focus for now is to add value to my brand and build trust with my customers.*

*"But I also got the idea from the training at MI about cross-border e-commerce and exporting products produced by other producers. I am now working with about 30 producers from the countryside about how we can pool together our products and start cross-border e-commerce. Because I am also involved in the logistics resources, I can be the gateway for the producers so we can sell more products to more customers both offline and online.*

*"The training was really helpful in transforming the way we do business. We made changes in our production and harvesting systems. We also improved our packaging and washing systems. And since putting my products on the e-commerce platform, we also changed our delivery system."*

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**Mr. Than Win Aung**

Businessman

Yangon, Myanmar

Attended training program on Rural  
 E-commerce Development in Lancang-Mekong  
 Countries, October 22-26, 2018

# Driving Forward Cross-Border Trading



Two other LMC Special Fund-supported projects were launched in 2018 that complement MI's ongoing initiatives in promoting cross-border trade and investment in the sub-region.

The project on the **Joint Development of Cross-border Economic Zones** undertook a study that assessed the scope of border special economic zones (SEZs) and cross-border economic zones, visiting 11 sites across the region and engaging more than 160 stakeholders. The study identified several priority areas for intervention including training opportunities that will enable SMEs to get the most out of SEZs.



Following the study, a modular training was organized on the management of special economic zones in September 2018. Attended by 22 participants from central ministries, industry and trade councils, representatives of special economic zones (SEZs) and private companies engaging in SEZs, the training aimed to offer a venue for sharing challenges and best practices in special economic zone management.

Another project on **Upgrading Border Facilitation for Trade and Logistics Development** also conducted a study to look into the hard and soft border infrastructure in border areas in the Lancang-Mekong countries. Thirteen capital cities were studied and 140 stakeholders from key agencies were engaged in the research. The study surfaced the importance of broader technical assistance and stronger mechanisms to attract investments in transport and logistics infrastructure in SEZs.



*"Right now there is only a hi-tech park in Vietnam, and the training I joined at MI provided me relevant information about special economic zones and cross-border economic zones, which provide very good foundation for strategy development of SEZs in Vietnam in general and of hi-tech parks in particular. I also learned about the concept of global value chain, which is what we want to establish and develop in the Saigon Hi-tech Park now."*

*"I am using the knowledge I gained in this training to further support domestic enterprises in joining global supply chain of multinational enterprises, as well as supporting our industrial zone/hi-tech park to meet the common trend of the SEZs in the region."*

*"Using the lessons I gained from the training at MI, I submitted a proposal to the leader of the Saigon Hi-tech Park about linking it with similar special economic zones in the region to establish something like a 'science and technology community'. This is a good way to establish a network of technology-oriented SEZs (hi-tech parks) in the region."*

**Mr. Nguyen Duc Huy**

Deputy Manager, Board of Management  
of Saigon Hi-tech Park

Attended training program on Management of  
Special Economic Zones in Lancang-Mekong  
Countries,  
September 24-28, 2018

# Greening the Logistics Sector



Mekong Institute continues to expand its initiatives toward the promotion of green and sustainable practices in the freight and logistics sector with the launch of the three-year project, **Green Freight and Logistics Development in Mekong Countries**.

Receiving support from the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund, the project seeks to build the technical skills of freight and logistics operators on green practices in freight and logistics in order to enhance their business efficiency and performance and at the same, contribute to the reduction of the carbon footprint of the transport sector in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

A baseline study undertaken in 2018 showed that the concept of green freight is essential for sector players, and further highlights the position and role of organizations like MI in developing technical capacity and encouraging knowledge exchange on the subject.

A first modular training on green freight and logistics management was delivered in September 2018 to mid-senior level government officers as well as members of freight forwarders associations and transport and logistics companies.

Also in 2018, the Green Logistics Auditor System (GLAS) software application was developed and introduced to the five countries for further deployment.

## THE GREEN LOGISTICS AUDITOR SYSTEM (GLAS) SOFTWARE

Introduced  
to over  
**500**  
stakeholders



in Cambodia,  
Lao PDR,  
Myanmar,  
Thailand and  
Vietnam

**60**  
companies  
installed the  
software



Contains  
**40**



key performance indicators on



fuel efficiency



operational  
efficiency



green logistics  
performance  
and measurement

The Green Logistics Auditor System (GLAS) software, also known as 'Green Mark', displays key performance indicators on various aspects of logistics operations including organization, transport operation, personnel, vehicles and customer responsibility.

Companies can use the software to track and calculate the degree of greenhouse gas emission of vehicles and use it to generate a "Green Mark" certificate based on the assessment of the indicators according to the Green Mark standards.



*"Before joining the training at MI, I was only aware of the concept of 'green environment' at the personal level. When I joined the training I learned more about what this could mean for our company and what we can do as a business to contribute to this.*

*"I have shared the knowledge I gained from the training to our staff, our friends and business partners. We have already educated 90 of our staff members about the concept of green freight and logistics. Likewise, we are more conscious now when it comes to choosing our business partners. For instance, we pay more attention to our AVL - Approval Vendor List - to make sure that they have a QMark certificate. Previously we used to send documents to our overseas agents, but we are more active in using email now.*

*"At our company we have also introduced small changes like reducing our printouts. We use online documents, and we have even changed our copy machines to one that counts the copies made by each department so we can better monitor our usage of paper. The knowledge we gained from MI on how to check and maintain vehicles to make sure that they are fuel-efficient is also one thing we have applied with our company vehicle."*

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**Ms. Wanthanee Suttinun**

Director/Assistant General Manager,  
Freight Links Express Bangkok, Thailand  
Attended training program on Green Freight and  
Logistics Management in Mekong Countries,  
September 17-21, 2018



# Building Partnerships, Strengthening Cooperation



## Transboundary Cooperation Mechanism on Adaptation to Climate Change and Hydropower Development Projects

Climate change has brought about extreme droughts and floods across the Mekong-Lancang River basin, resulting into a chain of impacts including water scarcity and decline in agricultural produce. Against such backdrop, hydropower and large water storage structures offer immense potential in helping manage the water flow and in building the resilience of communities in the basin.

The project, **Transboundary Cooperation Mechanism on Adaptation to Climate Change and Hydropower Development Projects**, launched in October 2018, intends to contribute to such goals by improving joint-evidence based information sharing and decision-making among concerned agencies in the Mekong-Lancang region. By improving the communication on issues concerning water flow and level fluctuations, stakeholders can identify critical strategies and policies to strengthen information and data sharing and ultimately, support climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in the region. The project has already undertaken initial workshops,

scoping visits and meetings with stakeholders in Thailand and Lao PDR. Results of these discussions confirm the importance of timely water level and flow data and information exchange to facilitate trade, navigation and irrigation supply. To drive these, clear bilateral and regional cooperation mechanisms as well as strong national capacity and solid policies must be pursued.

A clear next step for the project is the review of mechanisms through a multi-stakeholder, transparent process to ensure that regional initiatives whether multi-lateral or bilateral remain current and effective.



## Mekong Institute Young Scholars Program

The **Mekong Institute Young Scholars Program** leverages on MI's position as a capacity building institution and as a center that fosters cooperation and ties among the countries in the GMS.

With support from the Government of the People's Republic of China, MI in 2018 launched the first round of the MIYS Program, which seeks to offer a structured learning opportunity to junior and mid-level professionals from the public sector and the academe to receive hands-on experience in regional and development cooperation work.

Five professionals from Cambodia, P.R. China, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam joined MI in May 2018 as project officers, working with the Institute's program departments and taking part in their various capacity building activities.

As an initiative that also seeks to promote institutional linking, one of the major outcomes of the MIYS Program was the formal cooperation between MI and Kunming University, the home institute of MIYS Mr. Chunyang Zhao from P.R. China. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between MI and Kunming University in November 2018, affirming the two organizations' commitment to work together in research and knowledge exchange and training programs on agriculture, trade and entrepreneurship development.



*"I worked with TIF in their project on e-commerce, and this is a completely new field to me since my background is regional and urban planning. But I learned new things such as data management, budget and donor approval process. It made me realize that business is in fact an integral component of urban planning."*

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**Mr. Seng Touch**

PhD candidate  
Department of Urban and Regional Planning,  
Faculty of Architecture, Khon Kaen University,  
Thailand  
Worked at the Trade and Investment Facilitation  
Department



*"I assisted the ITC Department in their training programs and my work included things like sending emails, preparing the training materials and writing the completion reports. These are all very useful for me since I also work in training programs in my organization back in China. With the MOU between MI and Kunming University, I also trust that we will have a good cooperation in the future. I hope MI can create opportunity for each person to come to Kunming and learn more about my city and my university."*

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**Mr. Chunyang Zhao**

Program Officer  
Yunnan Education Department, Kunming University,  
P.R. China  
Worked at the Innovation and Technological  
Connectivity Department



*"This is a good program that gave me an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences and also establish relationship with the other scholars and with MI staff. I work in the Archives section at the ministry in my country, and if there is one thing that I learned from MI that I found very useful it is the development and management of an e-library, which I hope to share with my colleagues."*

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**Mr. Viengsavanh Keokounnavong**

Information Technology Officer  
Archives Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR  
Worked at the Communication and Knowledge  
Management Department



*"Part of my work with the ADC Department was preparing reports on the food safety situation in Myanmar, and I learned a lot about research in my six months working with the department especially in terms of report writing, collecting information, validating data and checking the usefulness of the information. Taking part in the training programs of the department also taught me about the basics of food safety and connected me with experts from both Myanmar and other countries, and this made me more confident when I prepared reports for the department."*

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**Ms. Mya Thuzar Swe**

Staff Officer  
Foreign Economic Relations Department,  
Ministry of Planning and Finance, Myanmar  
Worked at the Agricultural Development and  
Commercialization Department



*"I learned how special the EWEC Project is because it is a development initiative and since my organization would like for us to widen the topics and sphere of our work in the future, I think my experience in the EWEC Project will be very helpful."*

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**Ms. Hoang Thi Minh Ha**

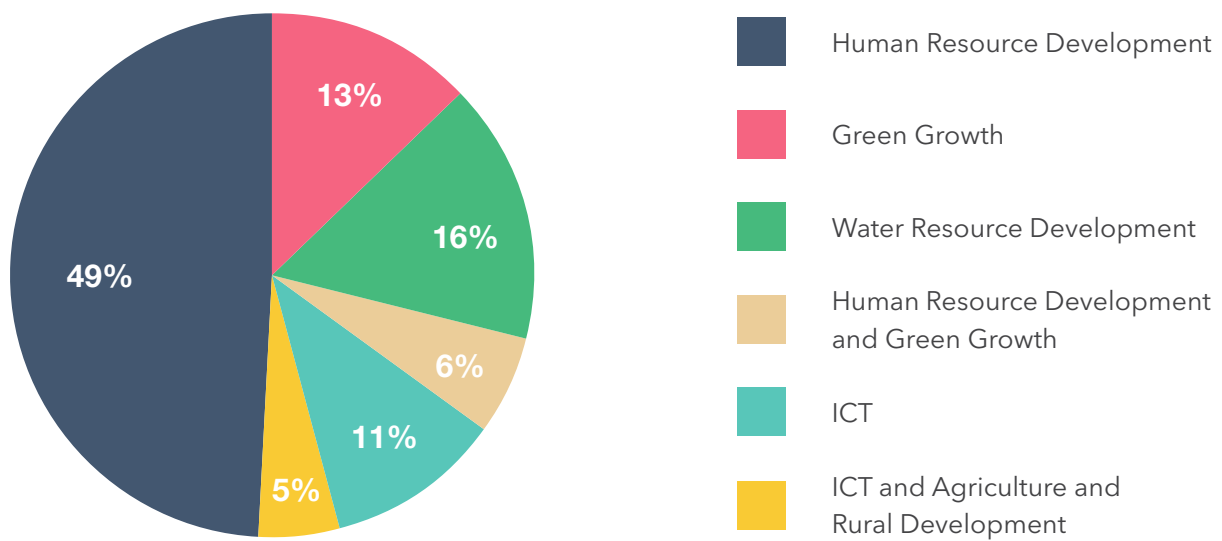
Researcher  
National Center for Socio-economic Information and Forecast,  
Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vietnam  
Worked with the RLED-EWEC Project

## Management of the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund

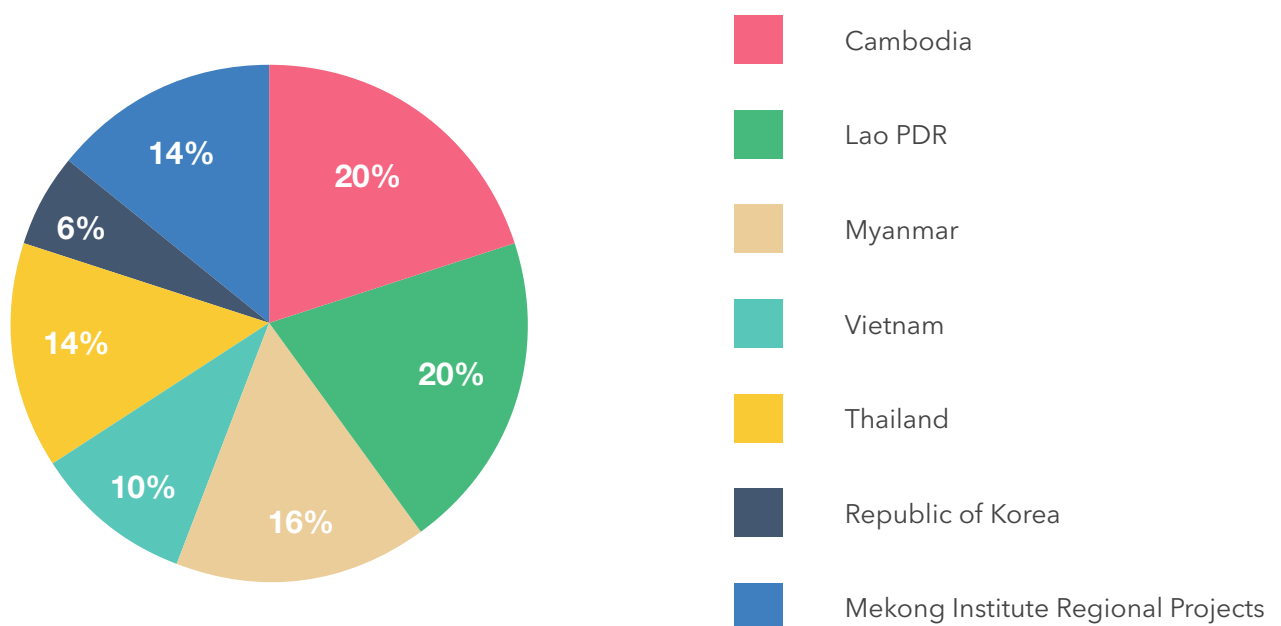
Since 2013, MI has been fund manager of the Mekong-Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund, which supports initiatives directed at addressing national issues that promote broader regional integration.

As of 2018, the Fund has provided grant support to 13 projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the Republic of Korea.

### Allocation Per Priority Sector



### Fund Allocation Per Country



# Selected Project Accomplishments and Highlights



## CAMBODIA

### Water Resources Management and Development in the Mekong River (2016-2018)

- Improved the knowledge of stakeholders on the upstream development in Mekong-Tonle Sap for fishery and mitigation measures



## MYANMAR

### Capacity Building Project on Development of Statistics (2016-2019)

- Over 160 professionals have been trained on basic concepts of official statistics and statistical leadership
- 50 participants were introduced to new statistical legal framework



## THAILAND

### Promotion of Safe Migration for Temporary Migrants to Thailand (2017-2019)

- Organized a training of trainers on data collection and current migration issues and concerns



## LAO PDR

### Development of Database for Laws and Regulations in Trade and Industry Sector (2016-2018)

- More than 200 regulations and related legal arrangements have been collected and 32 translated and edited
- Designed the website and legislation database of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce



## VIETNAM

### Building up Tripartite Model among Academe Industry-Government for Skills Development (2016-2018)

- Trained 120 lecturers, 150 employees and 250 students on various training courses including project-based learning and curriculum development

# Igniting Capacities Across the GMS & Beyond

## RESEARCH AND POLICY



- In-depth Study on Cross-border Trade Facilitation in Twin Border Provinces along the EWEC
- Review Study on the Quadripartite Business Model in Quang Tri
- Innovating Simple and Safe Sanitizing Treatment for Vegetables
- Challenges of Vegetable Value Chains: Case Study in Khnart commune, Puok district and Chan Sor commune, Sotnikhum district, Siem Reap

## PUBLIC AWARENESS



- **The Nation** article written by Ms. Than Tha Aung, *Innovation and Technological Connectivity Department*
  - Beef up Australia-ASEAN Friendship (May 23, 2018)
- **Post Today** articles for column 'GMS Connect' (inThai) written by Dr. Watcharas Leelawath
  - Self-certification: Means to Enhance SME Trade (January 10, 2018)
  - New Geopolitics: Risk Factors for GMS (January 24, 2018)
  - Upgrading Food Safety Standards for the GMS (February 7, 2018)
  - Skills Needed for the Future GMS (February 21, 2018)
- Quang Tri Model: From Grassroots to Regional Markets (March 7, 2018)
- Bottlenecks along the GMS Economic Corridors (March 21, 2018)
- GMS Summit 2018: Mutual Trust for Mutual Prosperity (April 4, 2018)
- Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Framework: New Mechanism for Regional Development (May 2, 2018)
- Lower Mekong Initiative: US Role in the Region (May 16, 2018)
- Han River Declaration: ROK Commitments in the Mekong Region (May 30, 2018)
- ACMECS: Thailand Pushing Forward for Mutual Benefit (June 27, 2018)
- Tripartite Provincial Business Forces to Drive Cross-border Trade along EWEC (July 11, 2018)
- Mekong Forum 2018: GMS Taking off to a New Level (August 8, 2018)
- Fate and Future of Special Economic Zones in Chiang Rai (September 5, 2018)
- Innovation and Technology: Ways to Get Out of the Development Trap (October 3, 2018)
- CBTA: Speeding up Cross-border Trade between Thailand and Neighbors (October 17, 2018)

## SELECTED ENGAGEMENTS IN NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL FORUMS



- **Keynote Address on Strategic Reform for Innovation-driven Economic Growth and Inclusive Development**  
*International Symposium from Mekong Commons to Mekong Community Synergy of the Sciences and Multi-Stakeholders Conference, February 11, 2018, Mr. Sudam Pawar, Innovation and Technological Connectivity Department*

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- **Paper presentation on Fostering Food Safety in the GMS**  
*International Symposium from Mekong Commons to Mekong Community Synergy of the Sciences and Multi-Stakeholders Conference, February 11, 2018, Ms. Maria Theresa Medialdia, Agricultural Development and Commercialization Department*

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- **Talk on MI's Experiences in IDRC-supported projects**  
*4th Canada ASEAN Business Forum and International Development Research Centre Conference, March 21-23, 2018, Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Trade and Investment Facilitation Department*

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- **Talk on MI's Projects Role in Mekong Industrial Development Vision**  
*22nd Meeting on Mekong Japan Economic and Industrial Cooperation, April 26, 2018, Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Trade and Investment Facilitation Department*

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- **Talk on MI Experiences in Community Development**  
*Seminar on Documentation of Best Practices and Challenges and Capacity on Community-driven Development, May 8, 2018, Mr. Nguyen Hung Cuong, RLED-EWEC Project*

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- **Talk on Sustainable Agriculture in the GMS and the SDGs**  
*ASEAN Sustainable Agriculture and Food Forum, June 8, 2018, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath*

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- **Keynote Address on Postharvest Handling and Storage Technologies of Fresh Horticultural Produce**  
*2018 International Horticultural Forum, August 22, 2018, Dr. Jun Acedo, Agricultural Development and Commercialization Department*

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- **Talk on the Development of Mukdahan Province**  
*36th Anniversary Celebration of Mukdahan Province, September 25, 2018, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath*

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- **Talk on Capacity Building in the GMS in Trade Facilitation, Digital Business and Green Business**  
*Consultation Meeting for Regional Cooperation and Integration, October 29, 2018, Mr. Madhurjya Kumar Dutta, Trade and Investment Facilitation Department*

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- **Talk on Development Cooperation and Cultural Exchange as Drivers of Economic Integration, Inclusive Growth and Community of Shared Interests in the Mekong Region**  
*4th Silk Road Forum, December 7-8, 2018, Dr. Watcharas Leelawath*

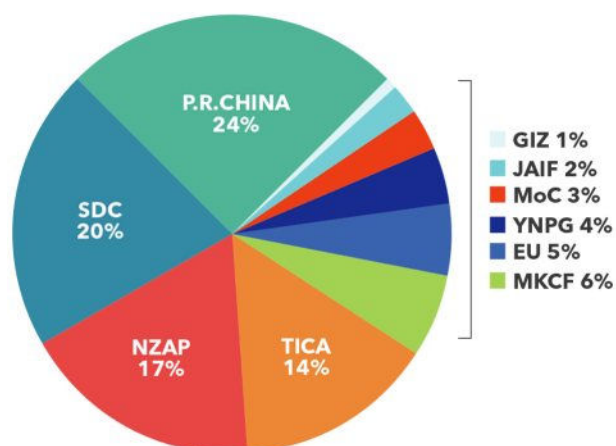
# Financial Highlights for 2018

## 2018 SOURCE OF FUNDING

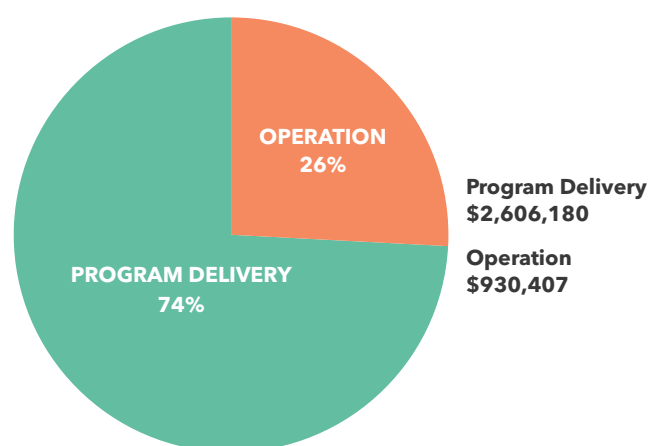
LONG TERM PROJECTS	AMOUNT (USD)
New Zealand Aid Programme (NZAP)	554,410
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	641,358
Mekong - Republic of Korea Cooperation Fund (MKCF)	182,385
Japan - ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF)	61,125
Government of the People's Republic of China (P.R. China)*	473,199
Yunnan Power Grid Co., Ltd. (YNPG)	30,853
Sub Total	1,943,330
SHORT TERM PROJECTS AND ONE-OFF ACTIVITIES	
Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)	145,903
Government of the People's Republic of China (P.R. China)	167,381
Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Thailand	88,988
Trade Facilitation Office (TFO) Canada	45,208
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	39,166
European Union (EU)	149,644
Asian Development Bank (ADB)	16,404
People's Government of Yunnan Province, P.R. China	119,998
Others	28,742
Sub Total	801,432
Total Funding	2,744,763
OTHER REVENUE	
GMS Countries Contribution	510,051
Other Revenue	74,576
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,329,390</b>

\*Includes funding for projects under the support of the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Special Fund

## SHARE OF MI DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS



## 2018 EXPENDITURE





# MI Council

MI Council Chairman and Representative of the Royal Thai Government	<b>Mr. Banchong Amornchewin</b> Director General (Acting) Thailand International Cooperation Agency Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thailand
Representative of the Royal Government of Cambodia	<b>H .E. Mrs. Pen Sopakphea</b> Secretary of State Ministry of Planning Cambodia
Representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China	<b>Mr. Zhang Guohua</b> Vice Governor The People's Government of Yunnan Province P.R. China
Representative of the Government of Lao PDR	<b>Mr. Songkane Luangmuninthone</b> Director-General Economic Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lao PDR
Representative of the Union of Myanmar	<b>Mr. Tun Tun Naing</b> Permanent Secretary Foreign Economic Relations Department Ministry of Planning and Finance Myanmar
Representative of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam	<b>Ms. Nguyen Yen Hai</b> Deputy Director General Foreign Economic Relations Department Ministry of Planning and Investment Vietnam
Representative from New Zealand Aid Programme	<b>Mr. Elliott Kirton</b> First Secretary for Development Representative of New Zealand Aid Programme to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Thailand New Zealand Embassy Thailand
Representative from Asian Development Bank	<b>Mr. Ramesh Subramaniam</b> Director-General Southeast Asia Department Asian Development Bank Philippines
Representative from Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	<b>Mr. Tim Enderlin</b> Regional Director of the Programme for the Mekong Region Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation Lao PDR

Representative from the Academe-  
Khon Kaen University

**Dr. Kittichai Triratanasirichai**  
President  
Khon Kaen University  
Thailand

Representative from the Academe-  
Hue University

**Dr. Nguyen Quang Linh**  
President  
Hue University  
Vietnam

Business Representative

**Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee**  
Chairman  
MFC Asset Management Plc.  
Thailand

Honorary Advisor

**Dr. Tej Bunnag**  
Assistant Secretary-General for Administration  
The Thai Red Cross Society  
Thailand

Honorary Advisor

**Dr. Jean Pierre A. Verbiest**  
Associate Banking and Finance, West Indochina  
Senior Consultant, Asian Economies  
Thailand

Mekong Institute

**Dr. Watcharas Leelawath**  
Executive Director  
Mekong Institute  
Thailand

# MI Steering Committee

Steering Committee Chairman	<b>Dr. Narongchai Akrasanee</b> Chairman MFC Asset Management Plc. Thailand
Representative of the Royal Government of Cambodia	<b>H.E. Mr. Chea Chantum</b> Secretary-General General Secretariat for Population and Development Ministry of Planning Cambodia
Representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China	<b>Mr. Li Hong</b> Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of China to UNESCAP Embassy of P. R. China Thailand
Representative of the Government of Lao PDR	<b>Mr. Virasac Somphong</b> Deputy Director General Economic Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lao PDR
Representative of the Government of the Union of Myanmar	<b>Mr. Htun Zaw</b> Deputy Director-General Foreign Economic Relations Department Ministry of Planning and Finance Myanmar
Representative of the Royal Thai Government	<b>Ms. Sayan Kongkoe</b> Director of Thai Cooperation Branch I Thailand International Cooperation Agency Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thailand
Representative of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam	<b>Mr. Duong Hung Cuong</b> Director and Secretary of GMS Program Foreign Economic Relations Department Ministry of Planning and Investment Vietnam
Mekong Institute	<b>Dr. Watcharas Leelawath</b> Executive Director Mekong Institute Thailand

# MI Coordinating Agencies

## Cambodia



General Secretariat for Population and Development  
Ministry of Planning  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

## P.R. China



Yunnan Research and Coordination Office  
For Lancang-Mekong Subregional Cooperation  
Yunnan Academy of Science and Technology  
Yunnan Province, P.R. China

## Lao PDR



Economic Affairs Department  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Vientiane, Lao PDR

## Myanmar



Foreign Economic Relations Department  
Ministry of Planning and Finance  
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

## Thailand



Thailand International Cooperation Agency  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Bangkok, Thailand

## Vietnam



Foreign Economic Relations Department  
Ministry of Planning and Investment  
Hanoi, Vietnam





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